CONNICK TALK HITS GARRISON

Say DA Is to Blame for Parish Prison Condition

10/7/66

District Attorney candidate Harry Connick laid much of the present controversial situation at Parish Prison at the doorstep of District Attorney Jim Garrison.

Connick, speaking to the Executives Club of Louisiana at the Sheraton-Charles Hotel Thursday, said part of it is due to the backlog of cases on the Criminal District Court docket. "But I know the judges will work," he said. "The DA is the one who sets the docket."

Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. said recently there are 40 murder suspects and 85 dope suspects awaiting trial in Parish Prison right now, "so it is no wonder that some of the things which happen in Parish Prison occur," Connick continued.

The candidate said he will move immediately to bring the docket up to a current status. "I did it with the U. S. attorney's office when I took over the Criminal Division," said Connick. "We took the oldest case and worked on it till we got it out of the way, then took the next oldest and so on down the line."

Connick said the district attorney also could prosecute quickly the 40 murder and 85 dope cases. "Get them ou of the Parish Prison and-or to Angola," said Connick.

"Thirdly, the district attorney can prosecute some of those in Parish Prison who committed the sex acts (recently made known). If he would prosecute enough of them, you would see a reduction in these offenses. Put someone in there to do undercover work to get the cases on these people."

Connick said Garrison took office May 7, 1962, but he asked if Garrison had ever appeared before the City Council urging it to build another Parish Prison. "It is right under his nose," said Connick,. "He should be able to smell it."